

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07705 120719Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-07 /057 W

----- 012025

O 121855Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9180

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7705

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IN, US

SUBJ: PEACE INDIGO

REFS: NEW DELHI 7688; STATE 136720

1. THE CHARGE CALLED DEFENSE SECRETARY D.R. KOHLI, WHO HAS JUST ASSUMED THE POSITION, ON JUNE 12 ON THE REL-REEVES MATTER. HE SAID THAT HE WISHED TO INQUIRE WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DEFER ACTION ON THE CANCELLATION OF THE REL-REEVES CONTRACT UNTIL THE PRESIDENT OF REL-REEVES COULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. HE COULD ARRIVE IN NEW DELHI ON MONDAY, JUNE 16. KOHLI REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE MATTER AND WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO IT AND BE BACK IN TOUCH IF HE HAD ANYTHING TO CONVEY. KOHLI SAID THAT SINCE THIS WAS A CONTRACTUAL MATTER WAS THIS SOMETHING IN WHICH THE EMBASSY HAD TO INVOLVE ITSELF? THE CHARGE REPLIED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DID NOT WISH TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE CONTRACTUAL MATTER. IT WAS ONLY CONVEYING REL-REEVES' REQUEST FOR A DELAY TO PERMIT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF REL-REEVES.

2. COMMENT: IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE NEW DEFENSE SECRETARY WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE AS
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 07705 120719Z

HE HAS BEEN IN HIS JOB FOR ONLY ELEVEN DAYS. WE

REMAIN DOUBTFUL REGARDING THE PROSPECTS FOR A FAVORABLE
RESPONSE. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ANY HIGH-LEVEL DECISION
WILL BE TAKEN SOON IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL
CONTROVERSY OVER MRS. GANDHI'S FUTURE.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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